



BILLING CODE: 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE117

Groundfish Operational Assessment Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) will convene a peer review of Operational Stock Assessments of twenty fish stocks. These stocks are managed by the New England Fishery Management Council and are included within the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. This will be a formal, scientific peer review of operational assessments which incorporate recent data. Results of the review will be used as a basis for management decisions for fish stocks in US waters of the northwest Atlantic. Assessments are prepared by stock assessment scientists primarily from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and reviewed by a panel of stock assessment experts. The public is invited to attend the presentations and discussions by reviewers and scientists who have participated in the stock assessment process.

DATES: The public portion of the Stock Assessment Review Committee Meeting will be held from September 14, 2015 through September 18, 2015. The meeting will commence on September 14, 2015 at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Please see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the daily meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the S.H. Clark Conference Room in the Aquarium Building of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Sheena Steiner, 508-495-2177; e-mail:

sheena.steiner@noaa.gov; or, James Weinberg, 508-495-2352; e-mail: james.weinberg@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please visit the NEFSC website at

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/>.

DAILY MEETING AGENDA – Operational Assessments for 20 Groundfish Stocks*

Monday, September 14

10—10:30 a.m.

Welcome
Introductions

10:30 a.m.— 6 p.m.

Gulf of Maine Cod
Georges Bank Cod
Gulf of Maine Haddock

Tuesday, September 15

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Georges Bank Haddock
Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine Yellowtail Flounder
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder
Georges Bank Winter Flounder
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Acadian Redfish
American Plaice
Witch Flounder
White Hake

Thursday, September 17

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Pollock
Wolffish
Atlantic Halibut
Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Windowpane
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Windowpane
Ocean Pout
Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

Friday, September 18

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Assessment Report Writing

**Subject to Change*

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Special requests should be directed to Sheena Steiner at the NEFSC, 508-495-2177, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 13, 2015.

Tracey L. Thompson,
Acting Director,
Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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